METEOR BUDDEN

METEOR GARDEN TRIBUTE ZINE

YOU'LL BE FUN

From :
To :

ID-TW Pop Bureau is an initiative focused on sharing Indonesian and Taiwanese indie music through media and performance. It was initiated by Muhammad İrfan (AKA İrfan Popish), a writer from Bandung, Indonesia currently living in Hsinchu, Taiwan. He moved to Taiwan to pursue his master's degree at National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University in the Inter-Asia Cultural Studies department. His previous work includes Bandung Pop Darlings (2019), a book that recorded the development of the indie pop scene in Bandung, Indonesia from 1995 to 2015.

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HAVE YOU EVER MET DAO MING TSE? AN EDITORIAL BURDEN

Taiwan is one of the regions in Asia that has the most anticipated music scene! In this beautiful island, good music scenes, crowded festivals, live houses, and creative spaces have emerged in almost every corner of the cities, especially Taipei. Not to mention the bands that are not only known in the local scene but also worldwide. Like Elephant Gym, or of course, the famous Sunset Rollercoaster. In Indonesia, they have played three times! Everybody's singing "My Jinji" out loud!

However, what's the famous musical phenomenon from Taiwan that was popular in Indonesia?

Hmm, my Indonesian friends seldom ask me how many times I've watched Sunset Rollercoaster live in Taiwan. But:

HAVE YOU EVER MET DAO MING TSE?

YES, THAT DAO MING TSE

DAO MING TSE!

HAVE YOU EVER MET DAO MING TSE?:

According to the Boys Over Flowers Wiki, Dao Ming Tse (道明寺 in Pinyin is Dao Ming Si) is a fictional character from the Meteor Garden (流星花園), a Taiwanese series, starring Jerry Yan, that was very popular in the early 2000s. He's the leader of the F4, a notorious gang in his school. The rest of the gang members were Hua Ze Lei (花澤類), Xi Men Yan (西門), and Feng Mei Zuo (美作). He was a business administration major at Ming De University. In his senior year, he met Dong Shan Cai (杉菜), whom he fell in love with.

Then, how popular is this series in the Indonesian mind?

Paramitaningrum and Herlijanto (2016) at Economic Diplomacy, Soft Power, and Taiwan's Relations with Indonesia stated Meteor Garden screened regularly in Indonesia since 2002 and attracted a wide audience, many of whom were Indonesian teenagers. Heryanto (2010) cited Pravitta (2004), there are some features that made Indonesian female viewers at that time attracted to F4. It includes: style, long hair, intelligence, no tattoos, no body piercing, and non-smoking. These features distinguish the imagination of a cool boy who is offered by the west. More than that, the success of Meteor Garden also helped promote the popularity of Taiwan as well as the Chinese language in Indonesia (Paramitaningrum & Herlijanto, 2016). Oh, about this part, I remember the girls at my school shouted "Jia You" at some school sports events!

On the other side, Meteor Garden not only became a representation of Taiwan in Indonesia but also a transnational flow of East Asian popular culture before the Hallyu phenomenon (Jeong et al., 2017). In Indonesia, Meteor Garden recorded the highest ratings ever in Indonesian broadcast history. It marked the beginning of a boom of East Asian pop culture in post-Suharto Indonesia.

With this great success, it is not surprising that memories of it remained for a long time in the minds of many Indonesians in that era. Moreover, this phenomenon is continuously replicated through local TV shows, series, and local versions of songs are created, and even shown in parodies. For example, Indonesian version of Meteor Garden was "Siapa Takut Jatuh Cinta", a series with similar plot with the original one broadcast in 2002; Yuni Shara, a famous pop singer in the country sung "Cinta Yang Ku Mau", which was a local version of Penny Tai's "你要的愛" ("The Love You Want"); or Project Pop, an Indonesian comedy pop group had a song titled "Pacarku Superstar (My Lover is a Superstar)" which add a funny lyric. If it's translated to English it should be like this:

He was far away in Taiwan
And I'm at home
Looked in awe at him
On screen
Is it possible Tika Panggabean (one of the group members)
Became Dao Ming Tse's girlfriend

So, through this zine and the event I wanna re-celebrate the times when Indonesians feel so close to Taiwan throughout Dao Ming Tse and his friends and how the impression about them lives in everyone's memory. You can read the story of an Indonesian migrant worker in Taiwan like Risa who moved to Taiwan for work but already feels familiar with the island because her favorite series. Not only for Indonesian, of course, F4 also affected the memory of Taiwanese, like my interview with Taiwanese artist/singer-songwriter, Ami Tseng and how Lo Yi Fan, a Taiwanese visual designer, added some F4 aesthetic to his works and that makes it more cool!

I think because they are alive, in your memory!***

Hsinchu, December 2023
Irfan Popish

你見過道明寺嗎？

在亞洲，台灣是個音樂場景值得關注的地方。在這個美麗的島嶼上，不差的音樂場景、音樂節滿檔、演藝場館與創意空間在城市的各個角落萌發，尤其是台北。另外還有一些不僅在本地、在國際上也享有知名度的樂團，像是大象體操、落日飛車。落日飛車甚至已三度在印尼登台，樂迷們都能大聲唱〈My Jinji!〉。

不過，台灣的音樂現象在印尼很流行嗎？

呃，我在印尼的朋友們很少問我看過幾次落日飛車，反倒會問：你見過道明寺了嗎？

對，就是那個道明寺

道明寺！

根據維基百科上《花樣男子》的介紹，道明寺是台灣電視劇《流星花園》中的虛構人物，由言承旭出演，在2000年代初期相當火紅。道明寺是校園幫派F4的頭頭，其成員還有花澤類、西門、美作。道明寺在高年級時認識了杉菜這個後來讓他陷入熱戀的女孩。

這齣電視劇在印尼人心裡到底有多紅？

Paramitaningrum跟Herlijanto在《經濟外交、軟實力與台印關係》中指出，自2002年起在印尼定期播出的《流星花園》，吸引了觀眾很大的注意力，其中大部分的觀眾為印尼的青少年。Heryanto（2010）引用了Pravitta（2004）的論述，有幾件讓女性觀眾對F4產生興趣的要素，例如風格、髮型、聰明、沒有紋身、沒有穿環、不菸等，這些特質讓他們有別於西方世界推銷的酷男形象。此外，《流星花園》的成功也促進了台灣與華語在印尼的流行（Paramitaningrum & Herlijanto，2016）。說到這個，我想起以前學校裡那些在運動會上呼喊「加油」的女同學。

另一方面，《流星花園》在印尼不僅代表著台灣，更是南韓「寒流現象」出現前東亞跨國流行文化的潮流（Jeong et al.，2017）。在印尼，《流星花園》更創造了印尼史上最高的收視率，而且也標誌了東亞流行文化在蘇哈托新秩序時代後爆發的起點。

憑藉這巨大的成功，F4的記憶能永存於這個時代的印尼人心中，也就不足為奇了。而且，這現象不斷被本地的電視節目複製，像是製作印尼版的影集與歌曲，甚至還有模仿惡搞。例如，印尼版的《流星花園》是劇情類似的《誰怕戀愛》（Siapa Takut Jatuh Cinta）；知名歌手Yuni Shara的〈你要的愛〉（Cinta Yang Ku Mau），是戴佩妮〈你要的愛〉的印尼語版本，另外還有流行喜劇樂團Project Pop的〈我男友是巨星〉（Pacarku Superstar），其中有段歌詞是這樣寫的：

他遠在台灣
而我在家
我癡迷望著他
望著螢幕
Tika Panggabean（樂團成員）可能
變成道明寺的女朋友嗎？

透過這本小誌與這場活動，我想再次慶祝那個因為道明寺與他的同伴讓印尼人感覺與台灣很靠近的年代，以及他們的形象如何活在每個人的記憶中。您可以在Risa的故事裡，閱讀這個在台灣的印尼移工因為她最愛的影集，讓她一踏上台灣就感覺似曾相似。F4不僅對印尼人，也對台灣人的記憶帶來影響，例如我與樂人曾稔文的訪談，還有視覺設計師羅宜凡（《Why Z Clan精少壞一族》主編）如何在創作融入F4美學，進而讓他的作品更加酷炫。
我想這是因為他們活在你們的記憶裡。

新竹，十二月
Irfan Popish

Mandarin Text translated by Sima Ting Kuan Wu

IT
WAS
CULT

I ALWAYS REMEMBER HOW WE SCREAMED EVERY TIME DAO MING SI HUGGED SHANCAI

INTERVIEW WITH RISSA, AN INDONESIAN WORKER IN TAIWAN

Rissa is an Indonesian who has been living in Taiwan for 10 years, working in patient care every day. However, Taiwan is more than just a workplace for her. Long before residing on this island, she already had her own impressions and knowledge about Taiwan, dating back to her teenage years. It all began through television shows she watched with friends in Her village, where she got to know Taiwan. Through Dao Ming Si and his love story with Shancai.

When did you start to be an F4 fan and what were your impressions when you first watched them?

I've been a fan of F4 for a long time. I think it started in 2000 or 2001 when I was in junior high school. I enjoyed watching the Meteor Garden series. Can you imagine, I came from a village in East Java, and at that time not every person in my village had a TV. So to watch Meteor Garden, me and my friends need to go to our neighbor who has a TV, then we watch it together. And it is still black and white TV. In my village, this series was very popular among teenage girls. I always remember how we screamed every time Dao Ming Si hugged Shancai. Wow! When I moved to Taiwan for work, my friends in a village liked to say, "Risse is already with Dao Ming Tse in Taiwan" as a joke. And I just replied, "Yeah, but from a distance", haha.

Among the four members of F4, who do you idolize the most and why?

I like F4 because they are good looking, have good acting skills, then good at singing too, and also have good bodies. Each player is perfect. But if I had to choose, maybe I would choose Vic Zhou because he is the most attractive, and the second one Dao Ming Si because he is tall and has a really good body. By the way, when I was in middle school, my hair was long down to my waist. The color is black and straight. Then my body is still thin. ***My friends and teachers at school call me Sanchai***. Ha ha. Funny.

As an F4 fan, what did you feel when you moved to Taiwan for work?

When I moved to Taiwan of course I was very happy, especially since I had often seen Taipei in the series. People who have been abroad say Taipei is beautiful, the food is delicious, and work is good as well. But when I first worked in Taiwan I was not immediately placed in Taipei. But on Matsu Island, a remote island outside the main island of Taiwan. Reality does not match expectations.

Do you still like F4? And did you have any experience related to F4 while you were in Taiwan?

So far, I still like F4. I love singing their songs, and I learned Mandarin through them. It seems that from the past to the present, F4 is still close to my heart.

I also had the experience of seeing Dao Ming Tse in person. In 2010, Dao Ming Tse visited Matsu Island and stayed at the hotel where my friend worked. Many female fans filled the hotel, sending flowers or chocolates until it was packed. These fans weren't just from Matsu Island; some came all the way from Taipei.

At that time, I saw Dao Ming Si running on the field from a distance. Unfortunately, the cell phones of the past couldn't take as good photos as we can now. Nevertheless, I was happy. He is tall and handsome. Ha ha.

I ALWAYS REMEMBER HOW WE SCREAMED EVERY TIME DAO MING SI HUGGED SHANCAI

If this interview was read by F4 member, what would you say?

I hope the F4 personnel are healthy and I hope I will be given the opportunity to meet them in person to take photos or make videos together. As a memento when I no longer work in Taiwan.

Rissa是一個住在台灣10年的印尼人，每天的工作是照顧生病的人。然而，台灣對她來說不只是一個工作的地方。定居在台灣之前，早在她十幾歲的時候，她就對台灣有自己的印象和知識。這一切都是從她和朋友一起在印尼村莊看的電視劇開始的，從道明寺與他和杉菜的愛情故事開始。

你什麼時候開始喜歡F4，以及你第一次觀看他們的印象是什麼？

我一直是F4的粉絲， 我想是從2000年或2001年我上國中的時候開始的。我很喜歡看電視劇《流星花園》。你能想像嗎？我來自東爪哇的一個村莊，當時我們村中不是每個人家都有電視。所以為了看《流星花園》，我和朋友們需要去有電視的鄰居家裡，然後我們一起看。在我的村莊中，這部戲劇很受少女們的喜愛。我記得每次道明寺抱著杉菜的時候，我們都在尖叫。哇！然後當我來到台灣工作時，村子裡的朋友喜歡開玩笑說：「Rissa已經在台灣和道明寺談戀愛了。」我就回答：「對啊，但我們是遠距離。」

F4的四位成員裡面，你最崇拜誰，為什麼？

我喜歡F4是因為他們很帥、演技好、唱歌好、身材也很好。每個團員都很完美，但如果一定要選的話，也許我會選周渝民，因為他最迷人；第二順位是道明寺，因為他很高，身材也很好。順道一提，我上國中的時候頭髮又黑又直、長及到腰。那時我的身體也很瘦弱，當時我在學校的朋友和老師都叫我杉菜。哈哈，有趣齁。

身為F4粉絲，搬到台灣來住你有什麼感覺？

Rissa: 我搬來台灣的時候，我當然很高興。尤其是因為我小時候常在《流星花園》裡看到台北的樣子。出過國的人都說台北很漂亮、食物很好吃、工作也很好。但當我第一次在台灣工作的時候，我沒有被安排在台北上班，反而是被派去馬祖，那是一個台灣本島之外的偏遠島嶼。現實與我的期望不一樣。

你現在還喜歡F4嗎？你在台灣有沒有和F4相關的經驗？

Rissa: 到現在，我還是喜歡F4。 我喜歡唱他們的歌，我透過他們的歌曲學中文。 看來從過去到現在，F4仍然是我心頭的眷戀。

我也有直接見到道明寺的經驗。 *2010*年，道明寺有一次去馬祖， 他住在我朋友工作的飯店。 當時飯店裡來了很多女粉絲，粉絲們送他鮮花、巧克力，整個飯店都擠滿女粉絲。 粉絲小姐們不只有馬祖本地人，還有一些從台北遠道而來。

當時我有一次遠遠地看見，道明寺正在操場上奔跑。遺憾的是，過去的手機無法像現在這樣拍出好照片。但即便如此，我也很開心。他又高又很帥。哈哈。

如果這篇訪談被*F4*成員看到，你會想跟他們說什麼？

Rissa: 我希望*F4*的大家身體健康，也希望能有機會和他們見面，一起拍照或拍影片。 讓我可以當作以後我不在台灣工作時的紀念。

Mandarin Text translated by Al Lindsay and Wong Jiang

Which Meteor Garden are you?
你是哪一部《流星花園》?

Shancai (杉菜), played by Barbie Hsu

She is a hardworking, tough girl who always defends the weak. Her name translates as 'weed'. She first likes Huaze Lei, but then starts to have feelings for Daoming Si. As her life gets tougher, she just keeps enduring, earning the respect of all the F4 boys and soon becomes good friends with them.

她是一位勤奮、堅強的女孩,總是捍衛弱者。她的名字翻譯過來是'雜草'。她一開始喜歡花澤類,但後來開始對道明寺產生感情。隨著生活變得更加艱難,她堅持不懈,贏得了F4男孩們的尊重,很快就和他們成為了好朋友。

Daoming Si (道明寺) played by Jerry Yan

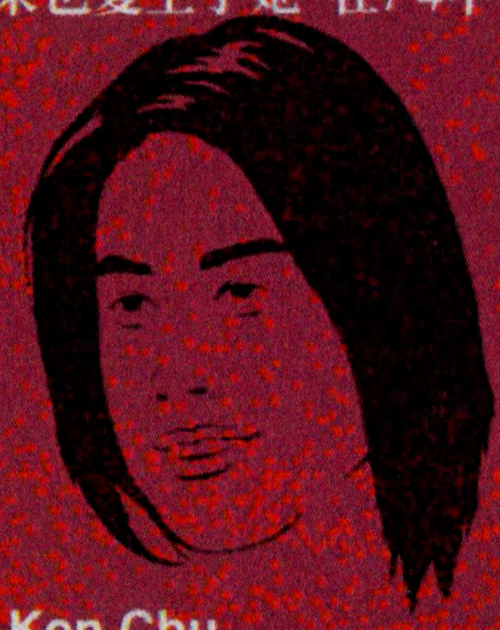
He is the stubborn, hot-headed leader of F4, and is distrustful of everyone but his three childhood friends. He thinks money can solve anything. He is at first is angry at Shancai for her defiance but, over time, he comes to love her.

他是F4中頑固、火爆的領袖,對除了他的三個童年朋友以外的人都不信任。他認為金錢可以解決一切。一開始,他對Shanca的反抗感到生氣,但隨著時間的推移,他開始愛上了她。

Huaze Lei (花澤類) played by Vic Chou

He is a quiet, superior but a kind boy whose opinion Daoming Si relies on. His friendship with Daoming Si almost ends over Shancai. He loves his childhood friend, Jing. He becomes Shancai's protector and close friend, and later falls in love with her. He is the most sensible of F4.

他是一個安靜、優雅但善良的男孩,道明寺常依賴他的意見。由於對於Shancai的問題,他與道明寺的友誼幾乎破裂。他愛著他的童年朋友靜。他成為了Shancai的保護者和親密的朋友,後來也愛上了她。在F4中,他是最理智的。



Ximen (西門) played by Ken Chu

He is a fun-loving playboy member of F4 who only date girls no longer than a week. He is nice to Shancai. Xiaoyou (Shancai's best friend played by Rainie Yang) is attracted to him

他是F4中愛玩的風流成員,只和女孩約會不超過一週。他對Shancai 很友好。小柚(由Rainie Yang飾演的Shancai 最好的朋友)被他吸引。

Meizuo (美作) played by Vaness Wu

He is the other playboy member of F4. Also, he is the joker who is very loyal to his group of friends. He is also nice to Shancai.

他是F4中的另一個風流成員,同時也是一位風趣的開心果,對他的朋友圈非常忠誠。他對Shancai也很友好。

你要做

Hostbuster x ID-TW Pop Bureau

你見過道明寺嗎

Have You Ever Met Dao Ming Tse?
A Tribute to F4 and Taiwan-Indonesia Y2K Pop

DJs:
Spykee
ŌÁ

Have You Ever Met Dao Ming Tse?
by Asterisme x ID-TW Pop Bureau

Meteor Burden Zine Launching
Irfanpopish

Sunday
January, 7th 2024
14.00 - 17.00

臺北市立美術館
Taipei Fine Arts Museum
No.181, Sec. 3, Zhongshan N. Rd.
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Visuals by Megathru

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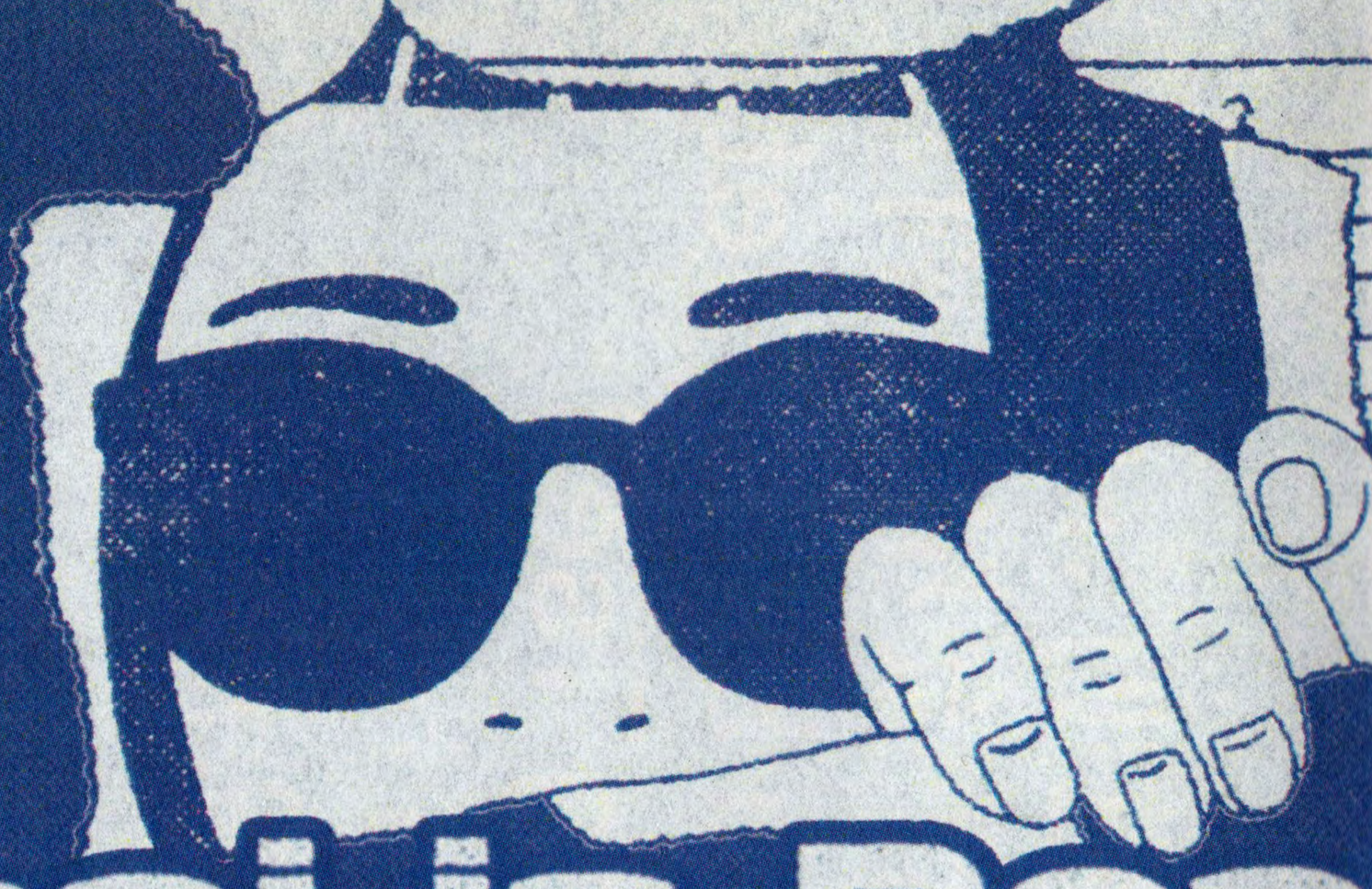
"Togar 多加 & Wok the Rock"

January 7–27, 2024

《你看過道明寺嗎》
——獻給「流星花園」

Have You Ever Met Dao Ming Tse? : A Tribute to *Meteor Garden*

主持人 / Host：
ID-TW Pop Bureau



Shancai is Rea

As a Taiwanese musician, do you First thing first, when F4 broadcasted in Taiwan how old were you? And how your personal memories about that series.

I remember I was 8 years old when it was broadcasted, in my second grade of elementary school. The whole school went crazy, and we even practiced singing "Meteor Rain" together during early self-study time. However, I didn't catch the first broadcast. I recall it was only after VCDs appeared at my home (bought by my mom) that I began watching it over and over again.

I heard you have some collections of F4 discography. Can you share us about that? Is that also became a trend at your school?

My house has the complete set of VCDs for Meteor Garden 1 & 2. I kept it low-key (otherwise, there might have been a massive borrowing lol). I remember lending it to one or two close friends. And just a few years ago, I bought the original soundtrack of Meteor Garden from a second-hand record store.

Shancai was a main female character of Meteor Garden, how do you think about her character. Do any girl at that time wanna be Shancai as well? Haha. How about you?

Shancai is really cool, refusing to give in, full of integrity, and very real. I've always been that type of tough, leader of girl since I was young, speaking and acting with a masculine vibe, not really good at showing the softer, more feminine side. I don't know if other girls wanted to become like Shancai, but personally, I feel that this kind of girl doesn't usually get much attention from guys—they tend to keep their distance lol.

Think F4 phenomenon in Asia in early 2000 is a good achievement of Taiwan music? And how your idea about the current situation of Taiwan music scene now in outside Taiwan?

I don't actually think F4 phenomenon has a direct connection to Taiwan's music scene; it's more associated with idol culture. After all, F4's music isn't exceptionally pleasing; people listen to it more for the nostalgic feelings. I think Taiwan's music scene quite unique. Personally, I think in Mandarin music, compared to the overall musicality, listeners pay more attention to lyrics. Musicians who gain a lot of popularity in the Mandarin music world, might not necessarily be as well-received in other countries (outside Mandarin-speaking regions) because beyond the language barrier, others can only indirectly experience the essence of the music and its abstract emotions. I became aware of this phenomenon during my first overseas performance.

Additionally, I feel that Taiwan's independent music scene is rich and fertile, featuring a variety of sounds. However, this doesn't necessarily have a direct correlation with achieving success in the market.

What is the most memorable things about F4 for you? Like the quotations, the scene, or maybe another impressions related to the group/series?

I think my favorite part is seeing F4 and other rich guys' immense pride being shattered in the series. My favorite episode has to be when Shancai causes a scene during Dao Ming Si's birthday, leaving Dao Ming Si's mom completely dumbfounded.

I feel this work symbolizes the breakdown of a certain form of capitalism or authority, offering a fresh perspective on many labels (rich/poor, male/female, substance/appearance etc). For me, F4 phenomenon represents falling in love with the characters in the drama, embracing the awkward moments and the genuine expressions.

It's also a nostalgic reflection on the times when I watched this TV series during my childhood.

首先，F4在台灣開播的時候你幾歲？ 以及您對該系列的個人記憶。

我記得播出的時候我8歲，小學二年級。全校為之瘋狂，甚至早自習的時間還一起練習了「流星雨」怎麼唱。
不過我沒有跟上首播，記得是家中出現VCD（媽媽買的）後，才開始瘋狂的看。

我聽說你有一些 F4 唱片集。可以和我們分享一下嗎？這也成為你們學校的趨勢嗎？

lly Cool!

我家是有流星花園1&2的整套VCD，我很低調（不然應該會造成大量借閱lol），記得有借給一兩個好朋友過而已，然後幾年前才在二手唱片行買到了流星花園的原聲帶。

杉菜是《流星花園》的女主角，你覺得她這個角色怎麼樣？當時有哪個女孩也想當杉菜嗎？哈哈。你呢？

杉菜很酷啊，死都不服輸，很有骨氣，也非常的 real；我從小好像也就是這種大姐頭類型的女生，說話和行為都很男子氣概，也是不擅長把陰柔、女性那一面拿出來。其他女生有沒有想變成杉菜我是不知道，我自己是覺得這種女生不會特別受歡迎男生通常退避三舍lol。

身為台灣音樂人，您認為2000年初亞洲的F4現像是台灣音樂的一個很好的成就嗎？ 您對台灣歌壇目前在台灣以外的現況有何看法？

我其實不覺得 F4 的炫風跟台灣的音樂有什麼直接的關聯，應該跟偶像文化比較有關聯，畢竟 F4 的音樂也沒有特別好聽，大家在聽的應該是一種情懷。我覺得台灣的音樂場景是滿特別的，我自己覺得華語音樂相較音樂的整體（如音樂性）、聽眾更重視的是歌詞，就像在華語音樂的世界取得大量呼聲的音樂家，不一定在其他國家（非中文地區）叫好叫座，因為扣掉語言以外大家就是只能間接的感受到音樂的本質、和抽象的情緒，這個現象在我第一次去海外表演時才意識到。另外我覺得台灣的獨立音樂是很豐富肥沃的，有各式各樣的聲音，但這又跟有沒有在市場上取得成功也是沒有什麼直接的關聯就是了。

F4給你最難忘的事是什麼？ 喜歡引用、場景，或可能是與團體/系列相關的其他印象？

我覺得我最愛的部分是劇中看到他們極高的自尊心被瓦解的那種爽感，最愛的一集應該是道明寺生日時杉菜跑去大鬧、道明寺媽媽整個傻眼那一段。這部作品我覺得象徵某種資本主義或是權利的瓦解，提供一些重新看待許多標籤（有錢/沒錢、男性/女性、內涵/虛有其表...等等），對於F4就是你透過這部戲劇所以愛上了劇裡面的那些角色、包含很尷尬的部分、真情流露的部分、很痛快的部分，也是懷念著小時候看著這部電視劇的那些時光。

An Interview With Ami Tseng (Dsps, Tempo popo)

Childhood Constellations: Meteor Garden (2001) in a Memory

Aubrey Fanani - MA Student, Inter-Asia Cultural Studies, National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University

Talking about Meteor Garden (2001) is like taking a trip down memory lane 20 years ago, as a child and transitioning life as a teenage girl in Medan, Sumatera Utara. The memory has blurred, altered, and might collide with my other memory. Meteor Garden was a big hit series in Indonesia, aired on one of the biggest television stations (Indosiar), and soon became a sensation. After Meteor Garden's release, a series called Siapa Takut Jatuh Cinta (Who's Afraid to Fall in Love) appeared with a similar plot and characters. Due to the exact similarity, people accused the show of plagiarism (it was plagiarism, but later, the producer denied it and changed the story).

I was a little girl that day and never watched the series or its duplicate for many reasons. First, I had a strict bedtime as an elementary student, and my parents monitored what I watched. Second, I had no interest in Meteor Garden at all (I was more interested in Teletubbies). Still, it seemed like everyone was talking about it – the mass media, my older friends, my neighbors, and my late aunt. These where my basic knowledge of Meteor Garden came from, as I had not actually watched it myself.

However, during the school holiday in 2002, everything changed when I visited my grandparents' house in Jogjakarta (located on an island different from my hometown). My late aunt was an undergraduate student, and I used to spend a lot of time with her. One night, everyone went to sleep, but she stayed up to watch Meteor Garden, and I joined her. I felt like I was rebelling because I broke my parents' rules as a child by staying up late and watching movies that I wasn't supposed to watch. I was struck by it.

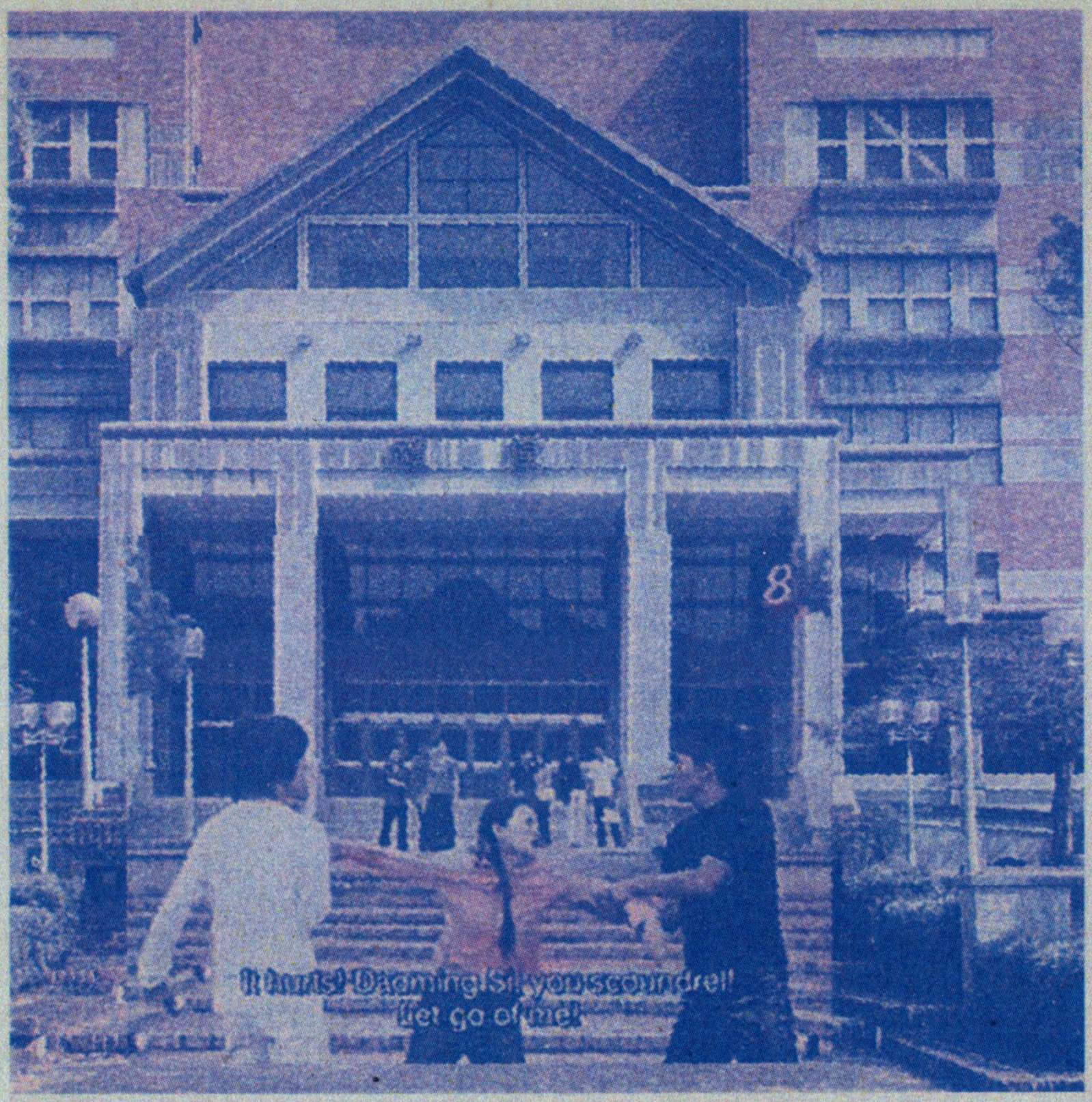
The series' popularity made other television stations buy the license and rerun the series repeatedly. Until I was big enough, I had the opportunity to watch the complete series (including Meteor Rain) on television. When I entered Junior High School, I witnessed a different view of the Meteor Garden. My school was identified as a Chinese ethnic school, so most of my friends were Indonesian-Chinese. On the first day, I was surprised to see many Chinese friends carrying Meteor Garden bags, wearing accessories, and using keychains with San Chai and F4 faces. The girls had permanently straight hair, while the boys used pomade to style their hair like F4.

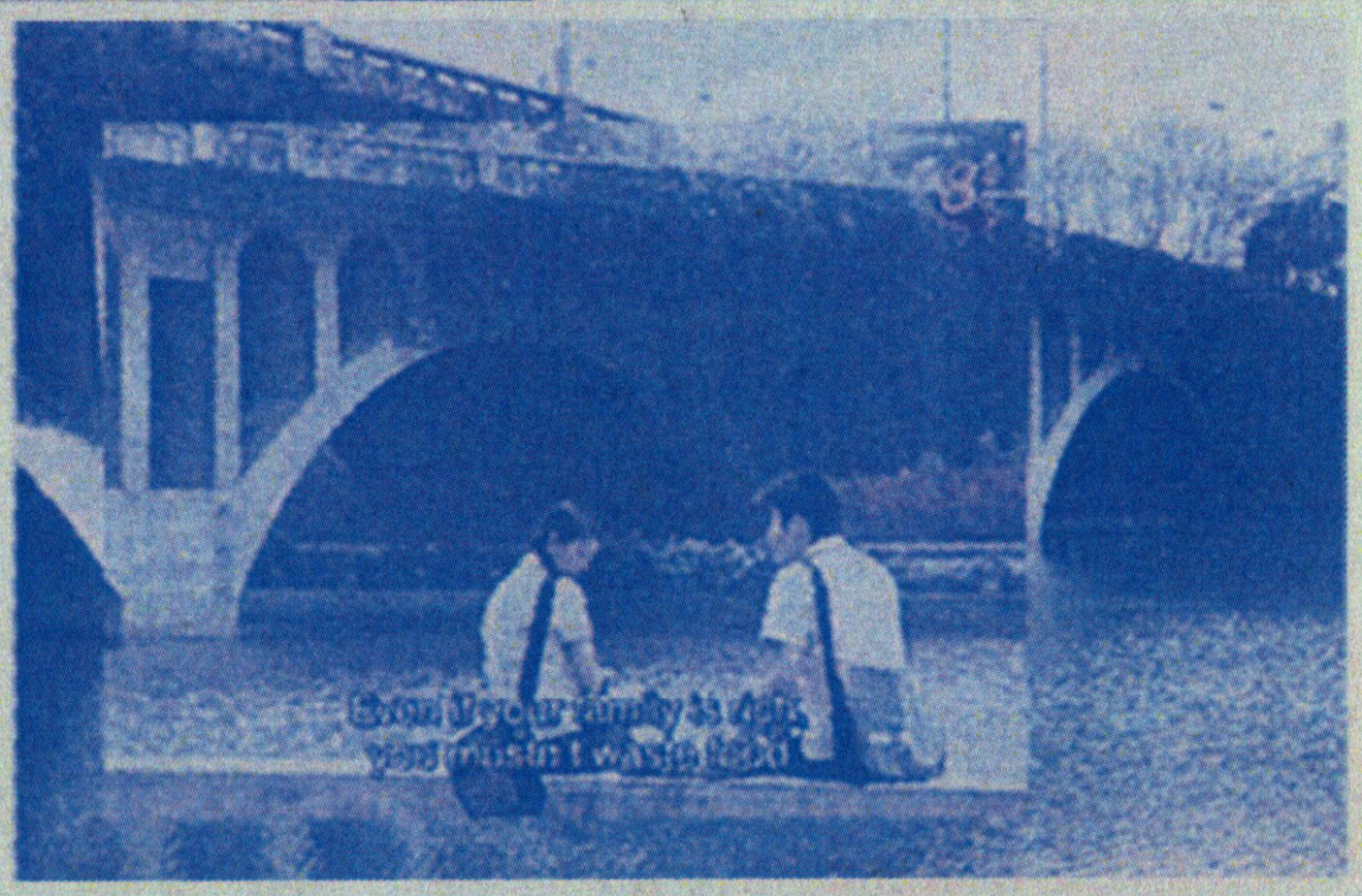
At that time, I felt they were tacky. But now, I contemplate it. It was part of their identity as Indonesian Chinese that they reflected in the series. It was part of their expression to come up as Indonesian-Chinese after the 1998 riot. During the riots, many Chinese-owned businesses, homes, and properties were looted, vandalized, and destroyed. Tragically, there were also reports of violence against members of the Chinese-Indonesian community, including physical assaults, rapes, and even killings. The situation led to a significant loss of lives and property damage within the Chinese-Indonesian community. Due to their history of oppression and repression, they had not been well-represented on television before. Even when there were representations, they were often misinterpreted or inaccurately portrayed.

Meteor Garden was not the only series from the Sino world that circulated in Indonesia. In the 1990s, Indonesians were familiar with The Journey from the West (1996) or, Kera Sakti, The Legend of the Condor Heroes (1993) or, Pendekar Rajawali, and My Fair Princess (1998) or Putri Huan Zu. The TV series mainly originated in Hong Kong or collaboration production between China Mainland, Hong Kong, and Taiwan, but Indonesians often had trouble identifying its origin. They would usually assume that it was a Mandarin series. However, it was a different story when Meteor Garden was broadcast in Indonesia - we could easily tell it was from Taiwan.

In my banal observation, Indonesians could identify Meteor Garden as a Taiwanese production because the evidence is ubiquitous. Unlike the other series circulated in Indonesia, the characters and story come from a legendary story with an unknown place and time as the background. Meteor Garden was able to engage its audiences easily due to its relatable story that reflects contemporary life. Additionally, the film features authentic scenery that is part of Taiwan's identity, including the National Chung Cheng University, Tamkang University, Tamsui Old Street, and other notable locations.

Although the film created a big sensation, I'm unsure if it significantly impacted the Indonesian youth lifestyle. The fashion trends worn by San Chai and the Flower Boys (F4), including their hairstyles, were not specific to Taiwanese culture in the early 2000s. As a result, when Indonesian youth emulated similar trends, such as sporting long, straight hair, it was not solely because of Meteor Garden but also due to the influence of other popular cultures. Meteor Garden, as a base point, introduced Indonesian viewers to the popular culture of East Asia (besides Japanese culture, which has been more familiar to Indonesians for a long time), including the Hallyu wave.***

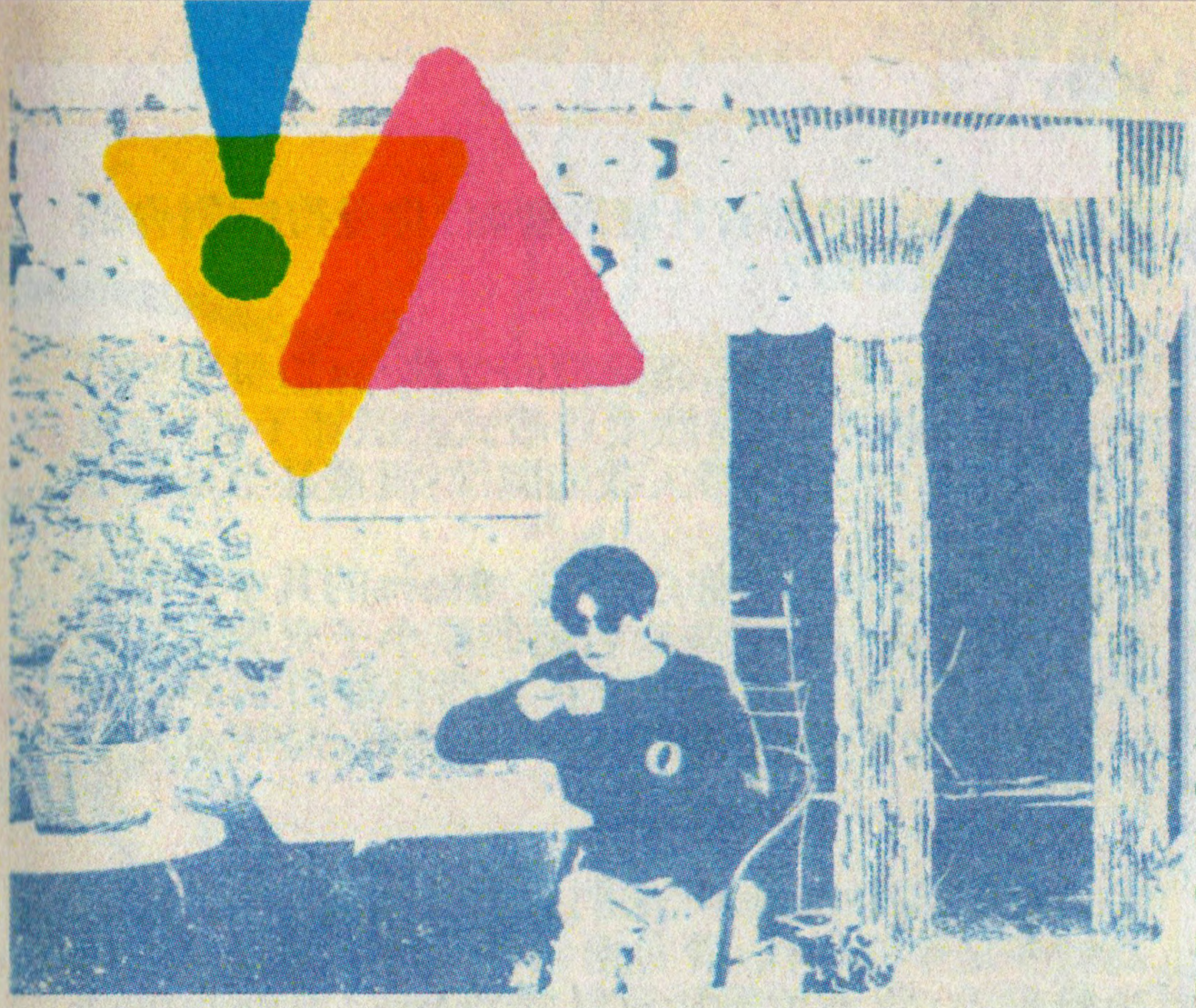




Pilgrimage to Ying De's Hipster

On March 17, 2023, I received an invitation to attend an event at National Chung Cheng University in Minxiong, Chiayi, Taiwan. Prior to this, my knowledge about the university was limited, except that one of my teachers, Prof. Miaoju Jian, teach there. During a casual gathering with some Indonesian friends residing in Chiayi, they mentioned a campus where the popular TV series 'Meteor Garden' was filmed. Upon further investigation, I realized that the event I was attending was hosted on the same campus. On the second day, I explored the campus, capturing moments through photographs—a pilgrimage to Ying De's hipsters."

在2023年3月17日，我收到了一份受邀參加在台灣嘉義縣民雄鄉的國立中正大學舉辦的活動的邀請。在此之前，我對這所大學的了解有限，只知道我的一位老師，簡妙如教授，在那裡任教。在與一些居住在嘉義的印尼朋友隨意聚會時，他們提到一個校園，那正是熱門電視劇《流星花園》的拍攝地點。進一步調查後，我意識到我參加的活動正是在同一個校園舉辦的活動。第二天，我探索了這個校園，透過照片捕捉了一些時刻，這可謂是對英德學院的時尚朝聖。



If I'm not wrong you are the one of the PAR Store's owners, and that store is quite international for some cool kids who visited Taiwan, haha. How the response of this international audience when they're visited you and see your artworks using the symbol of this Taiwanese pop culture including F4?

A huge part of visitors are Japanese and have NO clue who F4 is. Perhaps because these visitors are a relatively younger generation. Reportedly F4 was entitled "untie killer" in Japan 20 years ago. I doubt it might just be hype by local media. Kind of curious how F4 is still huge in South East Asia.

Interview with Taiwan Artist, Lo Yi Fan

IF I NEED TO CHOOSE WHICH F4 I AM, MAYBE VIC CHOU!

Lo Yi Fan, creator of Why Z Clan, active in independent zine scene for many years. Works showcase a sense of humor fusing pop culture with subculture.

Talking about F4 phenomenon in Taiwan, I interested to know about the point of view from your generation and your circle —which is from independent music community—. Is it cool things at that time? Or is it actually something that you want to laugh?

F4 phenomenon broke out in 2001 when I studied at university. At that time, Asian idol industry was dominated by Japan, so it was pretty fresh to see a local boy band that achieved success. To be honest I assumed these guys looking good on camera back in the days. But as I am getting older and looking back, I stared to feel their aesthetics amusing. I think most my fellows certainly wouldn't agree F4 was cool in Y2K, but definitely agree that they look funny now.

Then how it's affected to your works? How do you think F4 to your works?

Their aesthetics has evolved into cult of collective memory, including looks, songs, and actings. I am fond of making a "respectful parody" of F4 in my graphic, manga and even radio show.

Do you think any Taiwanese pop culture who have strong image and can spread broader to Asia/global world like F4?

A-mei and Sim Bûn-têng. They are both indigenous people in Taiwan. The former is deemed as a pop diva, while the latter is a talented singer and tv show host. Sím Bûn-têng's vibe is more of my taste of cult.

If you need to choose which F4 are you, who will you choose and why?

Tough question. Maybe Vic Chou due to his quote in Meteor Garden as Hanazawa Rui:
"When you are in a mood of crying, just handstand so the tears won't fall out."
Classic!

羅宜凡，白手起家建立『壞』世界觀。發表《精裝少年壞報》、《精少壞一族》、《我的日記》...等紙本，出沒於網路和獨立小誌圈。決勝球種是翻過流行文化和次文化的Sweeper。

談到台灣的F4現象，我很想了解你這一代和你的圈子——即來自獨立音樂社群的觀點。當時這些事物是不是很酷？還是實際上是你想笑的東西呢？

2001年F4爆紅時我在念大學，當時亞洲偶像工業是由日本主宰，因此看到有成功的台灣偶像團體出現感到頗新鮮。老實說當時覺得他們挺上相，但隨著時間過去，他們的美學對我來說變得帶些滑稽感。我獨立音樂圈的友人大多不會同意當年F4帥氣，但現在一定同感是好笑。

那麼它對你的工作有什麼影響呢？你覺得F4對你的作品有什麼影響？

對我來說F4進化成集體回憶的邪典，無論是髮型打扮、歌曲和演技。我喜歡用尊敬式的戲謔手法（有這種說法嗎!?）把他們帶入我的圖像、漫畫甚至是廣播節目。

如果我沒記錯的話，你是PAR Store的其中一位老板，而那家店對於一些來台灣的酷小子來說相當國際化，哈哈。這些國際觀眾在訪問你並看到你使用台灣流行文化符號，包括F4，的藝術作品時有什麼反應？

主力觀光客來自日本，他們幾乎不認識F4，可能因為較多是年輕世代。曾看過報導說當年F4在日本是師奶殺手，我不禁懷疑只是媒體炒作。滿好奇他們至今在東南亞的影響力有多大。

你認為有沒有像F4這樣在形象上具有強烈特色且能在亞洲或全球擴散的台灣流行文化？

阿妹（張惠妹）和沈文程，他們都有原住民血統。阿妹是台灣流行樂天后；而沈文程除了是很有才華的歌手和主持人外，也比較符合我對於有趣的想像。

如果你需要選擇你是F4中的哪一位，你會選擇誰，為什麼？

相當困難的一題。硬要選就是仔仔周渝民吧，因為他飾演的花澤類名台詞：『想哭的時候就倒立，這樣眼淚就不會流出來了。』實在經典。

Interview with Youthee

INTERVIEW WITH YOUTHEE,
A JAKARTA-BASED INDIE POP DJ

For the Indonesian music scene, Yudi Nugroho (AKA Youthee), was known as an indie pop veteran, a vinyl DJ, and also music collector. But I'm very surprised to know he had a personal experience with Meteor Garden and F4. "I bought Meteor Garden's VCD in my college days," he replied to my story about F4 that I posted on my Instagram.

Then I thought of inviting him to join this interview!

Hi mas Yudi, I'm curious how you can get attracted to the F4/Meteor Garden? As far as I know, you have an obscure taste in music, especially indie pop, this fact is kind of interesting to me! Haha.

It was recommended by my (back then still) girlfriend, she said you should watch this series. At first I was reluctant, then when I watched three episodes I'm hooked!

What's your impression about this phenomenon at that time? Are you also affected by their style?

It was really boomin' at that time! Even some of my chindo (Chinese Indonesian) friends suddenly became popular and idolized instantly. But it doesn't affect me though.

Do you think F4 introduced Taiwanese pop culture to Indonesians?

I think yes, not specific Taiwan only, any kind of Chinese stuff is suddenly cool.

What's a memorable scene from Meteor Garden that you always remember?

The relationship dynamic between Dao Ming Tse and Sanchai of course!

Do you think any musicians from Taiwan that can change F4 popularity to Indonesians, at least for the music fan?

Before k-pop I think F4 kinda started to make people more open to asian boy bands back then. But i remember the wave not as big as today's Kpop.

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Mandarin Text translated by AI, proofreaded by Alica Han

After Three Episodes, I'm Hooked!

對於印尼音樂場景而言，Yudi Nugroho（又稱Youthee）是一位獨立流行音樂的老手、黑膠唱片DJ和音樂收藏家。 但讓我感到驚訝的是，他與《流星花園》和F4有著個人經驗。「我在大學時買了《流星花園》的VCD，」他回答了我在Instagram上發布的有關F4的故事。

於是我想邀請他參加這次採訪!

嗨，Yudi先生，我很好奇你是如何被F4/《流星花園》吸引的？ 就我所知，你對音樂有一種獨特的品味，尤其是獨立流行音樂，這個事實對我來說很有趣！哈哈。

這是我（那時還是）女朋友推薦的，她說你應該去看這部劇。起初我有些猶豫，然後看了三集後就迷上了!

你當時對這現像有什麼印象？ 你是否也受到了他們的風格的影響？

當時真的很火爆！ 甚至我的一些華僑（印尼華人）朋友突然變得很受歡迎，成了偶像。 但對我來說並沒有什麼影響。

你認為F4向印尼人介紹了台灣文化嗎？

我認為是的，不只是台灣，任何中國的東西都突然變得很酷。

你在《流星花園》中記憶深刻的場景是什麼？

當然是道明寺和杉菜之間的戀愛動態!

你認為台灣的音樂人能否改變F4在印尼的流行，至少在音樂迷中？

在韓流盛行之前，我覺得F4在那個時候開始讓人們更接受亞洲男子團體。但我記得那波浪潮不如今天的韓流大。

SINGING SHA LA LA

Ni Yao De Ai

G Bm
Sui ran jing chang meng jian ni
C A
Hai shi hao wu tou xu
G
Wai mian zheng zai xia zhe yu
Bm
Jing tian shi xing qi ji
C A
BUT I DON'T KNOW ni qu na li

G Bm
Sui ran bu cheng huai yi ni
C A C
Hai shi tan te bu ting oh
Bm
Shui shi ni de na ge wei ni
C Cm
Yuan liang wo huai zu chi

G Bm
Wo ming bai Wo yao de ai
C
Hua ba wo chong huai
A G
Xiang yi ge xiao hai Zhi dong zai ni huai li huai
Bm C
Ni yao de ai Bu zhu she yi lai
A
Laong xian nan ge nan hai
Laong lui shai
Cm
Zu yao zu zai

G-Bm-C-A

Peng Tai

PROFILE

YUNI SHARA

Yuni Shara is an Indonesian singer and actress. She was born as Wahyu Setyaning Budi in Batu, East Java on 3 June 1972. Her debut was in a music festival called Festival Bintang Radio & Televisi in 1987 when she was 15 years old, she won 2nd place. In 1989, she participated in the same festival, and she won first place. This is where she was offered a record deal by Billboard. She released her first record in 1990 titled "Jatuh Cinta Lagi". In 1991 she released another record titled "Hilang Permataku", in 1992 she released "Salah Tingkah". Her career peaked with the release of the record "Mengapa Tiada Maaf" in 1995. The record sold 1.5 million copies and BASF awarded her with 4 Platinum Records. She also received 3 more Platinum Record for the Indonesian version of the soundtrack to the martial arts TV series Return of the Condor Heroes (神鵰俠侶).

Yuni is indeed one of the Indonesian singers who often sings popular Mandarin songs in Indonesian. Apart from "Return of the Condor Heroes" in the 90's decade, Yuni also sang the Meteor Garden theme song such as "Cinta Yang Kumau" whose original version was the song "The Love You Want/Ni Yao De Ai" sung by Malaysian singer, Penny Tai, as well as the song "Takut Mencintaimu", the original version of which was sung by Taiwanese singer Harlem Yu with the title "Qing Fei De Yi". ***

so who will be the next #4?

ID-TW POP BUREAU

印尼台灣流行音樂局

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